

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

CLAIMS

1. A system for facilitating selection, installation, and configuration of drivers for devices connected to a network comprising:

first means for automatically accessing information about a device for which a driver is to be installed and providing a signal in response thereto, said device being in communication with a computer and

second means for selecting a driver for said device and installing and automatically configuring said driver on said computer based on said signal.

2. The system of Claim 1 wherein said information includes device type and operational capabilities.

3. The system of Claim 2 wherein said network is part of a managed environment and first means includes a database that maintains said information organized according to an asset number or other identification number or name associated with said device.

4. The system of Claim 3 wherein said information includes first and second portions, said first portion obtained and entered in said database upon installation of said device.

5. The system of Claim 4 wherein said second means includes a website portal accessible by via said computer for enabling downloading of said driver.

6. The system of Claim 5 wherein said first means includes a user-interface running on said website portal for enabling said user to enter said asset number or

name into said website portal to enable said website portal to automatically select or build an appropriate driver package based on said asset number.

7. The system of Claim 6 wherein said website portal includes database software for enabling said user to search for said device or corresponding device asset number or name in said database based on capabilities of said device and/or proximity of said device to said computer.

8. The system of Claim 7 wherein said second portion of said information includes operating system and language information pertaining to said computer based on headers automatically supplied by a browser running on said computer and accessing said website portal.

9. A system for facilitating automatic device driver selection, download, installation, and configuration for a selected device in a managed environment comprising:

5 first means for maintaining and organizing data and basic drivers for devices installed in said managed environment, said data sufficient to configure said basic drivers for each of said devices and

second means for automatically selecting, installing, and configuring an appropriate one of said basic drivers on a computer based on said selected device and via said data.

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10. The system of Claim 9 wherein said first means includes a database server running a data repository database and a device driver database.

11. The system of Claim 10 wherein said second means includes a managed device portal website for enabling access to said system via said customer computer.

12. A method for facilitating device driver installation and configuration in a managed environment comprising the steps of:

assigning asset numbers to devices of said managed environment and organizing information needed to configure drivers for said devices by said asset numbers and providing organized information in response thereto;

determining one of said asset numbers corresponding to a device for which a driver is to be installed and configured on a computer in said managed environment;

entering said asset number into a managed device portal, said device portal having access to said organized information and running driver building software;

employing said driver building software to automatically construct a driver package via said asset number and said organized information; and

automatically installing and configuring a driver for said computer and via said driver package to enable use of said device by said computer.

13. A method for facilitating selection, installation, and configuration of drivers for devices connected to a network comprising the steps of:

automatically accessing information about a device for which a driver is to be installed, said device in communication with a computer, and said information including device type and operational capabilities and providing a signal in response thereto and

selecting a driver for said device and installing and automatically configuring said driver on said computer based on said signal.